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Winnebago guide, and pointing to Fox River asked its native name. The Indian, thinking the governor meant the word for water, replied "Neenah." Doty supposed it was the native word for that river, and always spoke of the Fox as Neenah River. Afterward, liking the name, he used it for the town. Other authorities apply the story to an engineer who was surveying for the government in early days, and who in his report gave the name Neenah to the Fox River. So far as we are aware, no tradition associates the name with an Indian girl.

HONEST AMASA COBB

The First National Bank of Lincoln has just been printing a semi-centennial souvenir. Amasa Cobb, who, as you know, represented our old Wisconsin district in Congress for four successive terms, was the principal founder and the first president of this bank. He was a member of the Wisconsin Senate of 1855-56. I remember the story that he exposed on the floor of the Senate an attempt to bribe him, which won him the sobriquet "Honest Cobb." It was said also that this was the legislature of the "forty thieves." I supposed that the occasion was the exposure of the bribery of the legislature by the La Crosse and Milwaukee Railroad Company; but that came later. I am unable to find any references to the incident in question in the publications of your historical society. I think it will not cause you much trouble to illustrate the incident in question very briefly on my behalf.

I remember also that General Cobb was criticized for his alleged drawing of two salaries—one as member of Congress, the other as colonel of the two regiments which he organized for the Civil War. If the information is easily available, I should like to know whether or not he spent much of his time in Congress while the war lasted. I should like to know also the date on which he organized each of the two regiments of which he was colonel, and the names of the regiments. I have data covering these points, but I am not sure of their reliability.

ALBERT WATKINS,
Lincoln, Neb.

With respect to the early career of General Amasa Cobb we have found some interesting material. Cobb was a member of the state senate for 1855 and 1856. In the latter year a special session in September and October was called to accept the Congressional land grants for railroads. There was a powerful lobby for the Milwaukee and La Crosse Railroad present, and it was openly charged that bribery was the order of the day. We do not find that Cobb made an open protest in the senate sessions;

but when the bill was finally passed, October 9, 1856, he "moved that the senate adjourn for the purpose of prayer." In the Legislature of 1858 an investigation was ordered, and Cobb was called before the investigating committee and sworn. His testimony was as follows: (Appendix to *Assembly Journal*, 1858, 113-15).

AMASA COBB—SWORN

Question.—Were you a member of the Legislature of 1856, and if so were you present during the adjourned or extra session in September and October of that year?

Answer.—I was a member of the State Senate for the years 1855-6, and was present at the adjourned session, in the months of September and October, of 1856.

Question.—Were any offers of any stock, bonds or other valuable things made to you by any person or corporation during such adjourned or extra session, to influence you to support or oppose, or to give your aid influence to procure the passage or defeat of any measure pending before the Legislature, relating to the disposition of the lands granted by Congress to this State to aid in the construction of railroads? If so, state when, where, and by whom such offers were made.

Answer.—Some five or six days before the final adjournment of the said adjourned session, Mr. William Pitt Dewey, who was then the assistant clerk of the Assembly, invited me to take a walk with him, and while walking around the capitol square in the city of Madison, he (Dewey) introduced the subject of the bill granting the land which has been granted to the State of Wisconsin to aid in the construction of certain railroads, to the La Crosse and Milwaukee Railroad Company, and which bill was then pending before the Legislature. During said conversation he informed me that should said bill pass, he would get a quantity of bonds. He stated the amount that he was to receive, and to the best of the recollection of this deponent, it was ten thousand dollars. He asked me what amount would induce me to cease my opposition and support the bill, or come into the arrangement. I asked him why, or by what authority he made the inquiry? He replied that he had come right from Kilbourn and was authorized by him to say that I might make my own terms. He further stated that "we had had a consultation at the Capital House, and concluded that I, (Dewey) being well acquainted with you (deponent), and we having been around together a good deal, that I could be more likely to come to an understanding, or arrangement with you, than any one else could." He further stated that "they were bound to carry it through anyhow, and that I might as well make something out of it, as the rest of them." This, as near as this deponent can remember, was the language used.

Question.—What reply, if any, did you make to his proposition?

(Deponent declined to answer this question; but upon the same being pressed by the committee, under protest, he answered.)

Answer.—I asked him what was the amount of the capital stock of the company? He replied, ten million dollars. I told him to say to Byron Kilbourn; that if he would multiply the capital stock of the company by the number of leaves in the Capitol Park, and give me that amount in money, and then have himself, Kilbourn, Moses Strong, and Mitchell *blacked*, and give me a clear title to them as servants for life, I would take the matter under consideration. I was strongly solicited several different times during the pendency of said bill before the Legislature by the Hon. Wm. Chappell, then a member of the Assembly, to support the bill; and on one occasion he stated to me, that if the said bill passed, he, Chappell, would make \$20,000 by it, or out of it, and that he wanted to see me do the same. I asked him how I could make it? He replied that my position as a senator would command that sum from the La Crosse Company, or words to that effect. He did not pretend to be authorized by any one to make any proposition, but did give me to understand that there was an arrangement to the effect, that those senators who came into it should receive that amount.

Question.—Did you, while a member of such Legislature, or at any time afterwards, receive or accept, either directly or indirectly, or did any person receive or accept for you, from any person or corporation, any stock, bonds, money, or other valuable things in consideration, or as a reward for your official vote, or your official or personal influence in favor or against any such measure or measures, or as a gratuity, gift, or present? If so, state when, and from whom.

Answer.—I did not at any time.

Question.—Did you have, during such session, or have you since had any conversation with any, and what members of that Legislature, relative to accepting or receiving, or having accepted or received, or having been procured, or expecting to receive any bonds, stock, money, or other thing in consideration for voting, or using their influence in procuring, or opposing the passage of any measure or bill relating to the disposition of lands granted to this State to aid in the construction of railroads? If so, state with whom such conversation occurred, and what was the substance of it?

Answer was in the affirmative with bill of particulars.

This testimony certainly entitles him to the sobriquet "Honest Cobb."

Cobb was speaker of the Assembly in 1861 when the war broke out, and as soon as the session closed he began enlisting men, and speaking through southwestern Wisconsin in favor of volunteering. It is said that he urged an early adjournment of the Legislature for the purpose of recruiting, and that his example and enthusiasm had much to do with Wisconsin's prompt response to the call for troops. May 28, 1861, he was commissioned by the governor, colonel of the Fifth Wisconsin, sworn into the United States service July 12, 1861. The Fifth Wisconsin Infantry drilled at Camp Randall, Madison, throughout the summer of 1861, and in September was forwarded to Washing-

ton, where the regiment soon became part of Hancock's brigade. Its colonel was acting commander of the brigade at the battle of Antietam and during other lesser actions. December 25, 1862, Colonel Cobb, having been elected to Congress from the third Wisconsin district, resigned his command. He entered Congress in January, 1863; during the recess in 1864 Cobb returned to Wisconsin and actively engaged in recruiting another regiment. Of this, the Forty-third Wisconsin, he was commissioned colonel August 10, 1864, sworn into United States service September 29, 1864. During the autumn of 1864 he was in the field, returning to Congress for the session beginning in December. March 13, 1865, he was assigned to the command of the Third Brigade, first district of Middle Tennessee, which he held until June 17, being mustered out June 24, 1865. This record of his military service is combined from the Wisconsin roster and Heitman's register. It is evident that he did hold two positions under the government from August 10, 1864, to June 24, 1865—Congressman and military officer.